

# BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS

I



A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

together with the

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F   P U B L I C   H E A L T H   I N S P E C T O R

---

1971

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H



TO THE MEMBERS OF BURY ST EDMUNDS BOROUGH COUNCIL

In accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, I present for your information the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1971.

It is with great regret that I must record the death on the 23rd April, 1972 of Dr. P. Coggin Brown, your Medical Officer of Health for twenty-one years. As a successor to Dr. Coggin Brown has not yet been appointed it falls to me to present this report.

The national decennial census undertaken in April 1971 showing the population of the Borough to be 25,629 compared with 21,179 in 1961, is a rise of 21.1%. A reduction occurred in the birth rate and an increase in the death rate but after correction the figures for the Borough still compare favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole.

The incidence of infectious disease has remained satisfactorily low. Two hundred and four cases of measles were notified. Although measles is not usually a serious disease it can, on occasion, be accompanied by serious complications, and is more preventable by the use of an effective vaccine.

The environmental work of the Public Health Department is described in detail in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which follows.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. J.H. Easdown for his help in maintaining the work of the Department during this difficult interim period and in particular for his great help in compiling this report.

D.G.H. Patey

County Medical Officer of Health







VITAL STATISTICS

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS which follow in the sequence of this report relate to the corresponding figures for 1970.

Population:-

(1) Registrar General's Estimate for 1971	25,890	(25,150)
(2) Census April, 1971	25,629	
Rateable Value	£1,407,066	(£1,306,292)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (Est.)	£13,265(1p)	(£5,390)(1d)
Area	3,623 acres.	

BIRTHS:- There was a decline in the birth rate but the figure when corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population remained slightly above that for England and Wales as a whole.

LIVE BIRTHS:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	215 (233)	186 (208)	401 (441)
Illegitimate	11 (13)	13 (11)	24 (24)
Percentage of illegitimate live births of total			
live births:	5.6 (5.0)		
Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population:	16.4 (18.5)		
Comparability Factor for Births:	0.98 ( 0.98)		
Birth Rate per 1,000 corrected for			
comparability:	16.1 (18.1)		
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population England			
and Wales	16.0 (16.0)		

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2 (2)	1 (4)	3 (6)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of total			
(live and still) births:	7.0 (13.0)		
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of total			
(live and still) births England and Wales	12.0 (13.0)		

DEATHS:- There was a small increase in the death rate but the corrected figure of 9.3 per 1,000 of the population was still below that for England and Wales. The increase in the number of deaths was largely due to two diseases - namely ischaemic heart disease and malignant disease of the lung.

DEATHS:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	156 (155)	151 (129)	307 (284)
Crude death rate per 1,000 of population:	11.9 (11.3)		
Comparability Factor for deaths:	0.78 (0.78)		
Death rate per 1,000 of population			
corrected for comparability:	9.3 (8.8)		

Death Rate per 1,000 of population  
 England and Wales: 11.6 (11.7)  
 Ratio of Local corrected death rate  
 to the national rate: 0.8 (0.75)

## INFANT MORTALITY:-

The actual number of deaths of infants under one year of age increased from 5 in the previous year to 9 in the year under review. The causes of the infant deaths were as follows:-

## Congenital anomalies 2

## Diseases of the Skin, Subcutaneous tissue 1

## **Birth injury, difficult labour etc. 1**

## **Intestinal obstruction and hernia**

#### Other causes of perinatal mortality 4

Deaths of infants under one year of age:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5 (4)	4 (1)	9 (5)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		21 (11.0)	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		18 (18.0)	
England and Wales.			

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The general incidence of infectious disease was low.

Measles: Two hundred and four cases were notified. Although measles is often a mild illness potentially serious complications are not uncommon and it is for this reason the use of live measles vaccine is strongly recommended.

Food Poisoning: Two separate cases were notified and each was due to a Salmonella infection. Both cases were children who resided outside the Borough.

## PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

### Age and sex distribution of new cases 1971

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE  
DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Age Unknown	Totals
MEASLES	8	21	26	29	26	88	1	1	1	3	204
MENINGITIS	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
FOOD POISONING	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
WHOOPING COUGH	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
INFECTION HEPATITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
MEASLES	2	105	61	12	7	3	2	9	1	2	-	-	204
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
WHOOPING COUGH	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
INFECTION HEPATITIS	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR

1971

IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS

Registrar General's  
Figures

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	7	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	21	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	4
Other Endocrine etc, Diseases	-	3
Anaemias	-	1
Other Diseases of Blood etc.	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	4	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	43	28
Other forms of Heart Disease	7	11
Cerebrovascular Disease	13	30
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	7
Other infective and parasitic Diseases	1	1
Pneumonia	19	33
Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	7
Asthma	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	2
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	2	-
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	2	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	4	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1
All Other Accidents	2	1
Total - All Causes	156	151

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

#### Water Supply

The water undertakers for the Borough are the West Suffolk Water Board. Supplies during the year have been satisfactory by way of quality, although doubts were expressed about the quantity during the fine and dry summer months.

The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor:-

#### Swimming Pool

The use of the swimming pool showed a considerable drop from the previous year due probably to generally poorer weather conditions.

<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Season Tickets</u>	
		<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
1971 5,000	21,570	60	482
1970 7,602	29,475	53	300
1969 3,594	20,488	--	--

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal

Regular collections of domestic and trade refuse were carried out with disposal by means of controlled tipping at West Stow. Special collections of household items were made in compliance with the Civic Amenities Act.

#### Sewage Disposal

The extensions to the sewage disposal works at Fornham Park and Pigeon Lane were substantially completed and operational during the year. The final effluent to the River Lark has been of a high standard of purity.

R A I N F A L L

The rainfall recorded during 1971 was as follows:-

Month	Total for month (inches)	Maximum rainfall on any day during month
January	2.83	0.52
February	0.50	0.08
March	1.60	0.32
April	1.17	0.54
May	1.50	0.33
June	3.40	1.16
July	1.47	0.53
August	2.83	0.78
September	0.75	0.23
October	2.22	0.76
November	3.40	0.45
December	0.75	0.24
Total	22.42	

MILK

Number of milk samples taken in Bury St. Edmunds

by West Suffolk County Council Weights and Measures Department

from January to December 1971

QUALITY		BACTERIOLOGICAL			
Chemical		Phosphatase		Methylene Blue	
Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
40	-	88	-	82	6



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R



Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

During 1971 the following inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the Department. Throughout the report the figures which appear in brackets are those for 1970.

<u>SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Complaints and Nuisances	826	924
Dustbins	3	14
In connection with Verminous Persons	1	-
Insanitary houses	25	17
Drainage work	350	410
Ponds, pools and ditches	45	97
Stables and Piggeries	-	4
Disinfections and Disinfestations	9	59
Hairdressers and Barbers	15	81
Noise Abatement Act	32	85
Infectious Disease enquiries	133	42
Rodent Control	2172	2236
Refuse tips	9	6
Means of Escape in Case of Fire (Section 60)	-	118
River Pollution	-	34
Housing Act 1969 - Improvements and Qualification Certificates	639	928
Housing (General)	924	769
Food Premises, complaints and date Coding	494	1097
Shops Act	139	104
Unsound Food	409	375
Stalls and Markets	229	271
Ice Cream, Cream and Water Sampling	136	133
Slaughterhouses	2079	2080
Poultry Inspection	805	771
Ice Cream Vendors	40	58
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	831	740
Factories	89	204
Caravans	45	142
Clean Air Act	46	79
Petroleum	292	423
Diseases Of Animals Act	186	136
Pets Act	3	14
Explosives Act	44	55
Rag Flock and other Fillings Act	2	-
Schools	1	3
Game Act	9	-
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act	2	-
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	-	4
Riding Establishments Act	2	6
Scrap Metal Dealers	-	7
Exhumations	-	-
Lectures	6	5
Interviews with owners, etc	853	1023
miscellaneous	318	420
	12243	13974
	=====	=====

#### GENERAL

During the year the inspectorate staff was unchanged with a full complement. The numbers of visits of a routine nature increased and interviews and discussions with the owners and agents, etc., consumed more time, particularly in the field of housing improvement.

Whilst clearance and/or repair of many sewers and drains was achieved during the year by informal action and advice, it was considered necessary to serve seven statutory notices requiring work to be carried out.

Nine notices were served to control the demolition of houses, the site conditions following demolition and the stability and weather-proofing of exposed gable walls on adjoining properties.

On several occasions it was necessary to obtain permission to institute proceedings for various contraventions of legislation. On each occasion a warning was given that information would be laid if the contraventions were not remedied by a certain date and it is pleasing to note that it was not found necessary for proceedings to be taken in any of the instances. It is a pity however, that the offenders put the Department and the Council to so much trouble before complying with the legislation.

Only the tolerance of your inspectors, in dealing with contraventions of various legislation and with the reluctant attitude of those responsible for the remedy of the contraventions, limited the occasions when reports were made to the Local Authority recommending prosecution. This is also commented upon specifically in relation to The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 later in this report.

As in previous years lectures were given by the Public Health Inspectors to senior pupils where requested by schools in the Borough.

#### WATER

There are now 10 public and private swimming pools in the Borough. 7 bacteriological samples were taken from these pools and all were found to be satisfactory.

54 bacteriological samples were taken from private wells and the mains water supply. In 4 instances (all from wells) samples were found to be unsatisfactory and showing presence of Coliform and E. Coli (Type 1). Advice was given and further samples were all found to be satisfactory.

In one school it was found that the water supply passed through several lead covered tanks and this water was sampled. The lead content of the water was below the limit of detection.

The waters of the Rivers Lark and Linnet were sampled as a matter of curiosity and as expected were proved to have considerable bacteriological contamination. This year much time has been spent by the Inspectors on surveying the rivers for visible signs of pollution and to eliminate oil and other trade waste liquids. Constant supervision of these rivers must be maintained to prevent the build up of contaminating substances.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The general standard of hygiene in food premises in the town remained at a high level and very few complaints were received about unhygienic practices observed by the general public.

107 visits were carried out for the main purpose of checking the date coding of perishable foods exposed for sale in shops in the town. On one day 22 shops of mixed size and location were visited when it was found that no less than 11 were offering food for sale beyond its coded life. In two shops the food was some 4 to 6 weeks beyond its code life.

This food was probably stale but unfortunately no contravention is necessarily implied because of this fact.

#### FOOD COMPLAINTS

In all 41 (42) complaints relative to food were received and investigated by the Department. 21 of these complaints concerned various foreign bodies being found in the food and the remaining 20 complaints were made in respect of the condition of the food which had been purchased. Of the 41 complaints, 8 related to dirty milk bottles. 7 of the 41 complaints were found to be unjustified.

#### ICE CREAM

During the year 42(73) samples of ice-cream were purchased, 18 of these came from mobile vendors and the remainder from premises mostly of the catering type. Results of the sampling are as follows:-

Grade 1 - 30	(71)
Grade 2 - 4	(0)
Grade 3 - 7	(1)
Grade 4 - 1	(1)

Of the 12 samples which were not of Grade 1 standard, 9 came from mobile vendors which would appear to justify the decision to sample from these sources wherever possible. Inspections were carried out of the vehicles and premises from which sub-standard samples were taken and following advice further samples were found to be satisfactory. In view of the results obtained during 1971 it is intended to continue to sample in the main from mobile food vendors in the coming year.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

As will be seen from the following table a total of 91,617 animals were slaughtered in the Borough for human consumption. This figure represents only a small increase of 2235 animals on last year and was only made possible by a 25% increase in the kill of sheep. The number of cattle killed fell considerably and for the first time there was a reduction in the number of pigs slaughtered.

##### Total number of animals killed for human consumption

1949	6,592
1954	12,301
1959	16,280
1964	37,922
1965	64,628
1966	65,409
1967	65,675
1968	78,085
1969	79,588
1970	89,382
1971	91,617

Throughout the year the enlargement alterations at the larger of the two slaughterhouses continued and this work, which should have been

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole

Or Part

- 13 -

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	13212	861	157	20961	56426	---
Number inspected	13212	861	157	20961	56426	---
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	15	11	24	18	488	---
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3597	416	46	1719	13012	---
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	27.3	49.6	44.6	8.3	23.9	---
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole Carcasses condemned	---	---	---	---	1	---
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	---	---	---	456	---
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.015	---	---	---	0.89	---
CYSTICERCI						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	---	---	---	---	---
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	16	---	---	---	---	---
Generalised and totally condemned	---	---	---	---	---	---



## ANALYSIS OF CONDEMNED

	CATTLE						SHEEP		
	Whole Carcasses	Heads and Tongues	Lungs	Livers and Part Livers	Skirts Udders & Mesenteries	Hearts, Kidneys & Spleens	Whole Carcasses	Heads	Lungs
Tuberculosis			1		1				
Pneumonia, Pericarditis Pleurisy, Peritonitis, Melanosis, Emphysema, Xanthosis	5	3	1469	15	7	53	3		22
Pyaemia, Pyrexia, Gangrene, Septicaemia	2							2	
Liver Fluke, Cirrhosis and other Parasitic Conditions Hepatitis			3	1174					23
Nephritis, Necrosis Hydronephrosis, Odour, Blood Splashing, Telangiectasis	1			102	8	78	1		
Emaciation, Oedema and Enteritis	13							8	
Actinomycosis and Actinobacillosis		60	2	1					
Brucellosis					22				
Tumours, Abscesses, Cystic Conditions, Adhesions	1	19	49	1365	39	131			14
Septic Metritis & Mastitis	2				39			1	
Cysticercus bovis		15			1				
Icterus, Uraemia & Anaemia	1								
Swine Erysipelas, Swine Fever									
Moribund, Bruising, Ill Bled	1	3				1	3		
Contamination		11	36	8	4				46
Septic Arthritis									
Joint Ill, Leukaemia, Taint, Johnes Disease, Immaturity									
Congestion			14						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1574</b>	<b>2665</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>1072</b>

The following Carcase Meat was also condemned:

BEEF

Bruising, Atrophy, Decomposition or Oedema	1840 lb.
Abscesses, Rash	481 lb.
Arthritis and Fibrosis	303 lb.
Tuberculosis	---

The total weight of all meat condemned

## MEAT AND OFFAL

PIGS										CALVES																			
Hearts and Kidneys		Whole Carcasses		Heads		Lungs		Livers		Hearts		Mesentery fats and guts		Kidneys		Whole Carcasses		Heads		Hearts		Livers		Lungs		Kidneys		Mesenteries	
		1	446							23																			
6	119			7958				3491	239					3						9				41					
	105													18															
				2938																									
2	16										12																62		
	23							196				1																	
66	29	183	26	5	1733				3															2	1				
	10																												
	4																												
	15																		2	1									
294	67		1	12	9																				1	5			
	8																												
	5																												
		5115																											
395	104	489	473	13090	4680	3491	461	12	24	1	9	3	47	62															

## MUTTON

271 lb.

80 lb.

77 lb.

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## PORK

2183 lb.

11663 lb.

2970 lb.

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## VEAL

19 lb.

2 lb.

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## GOATS

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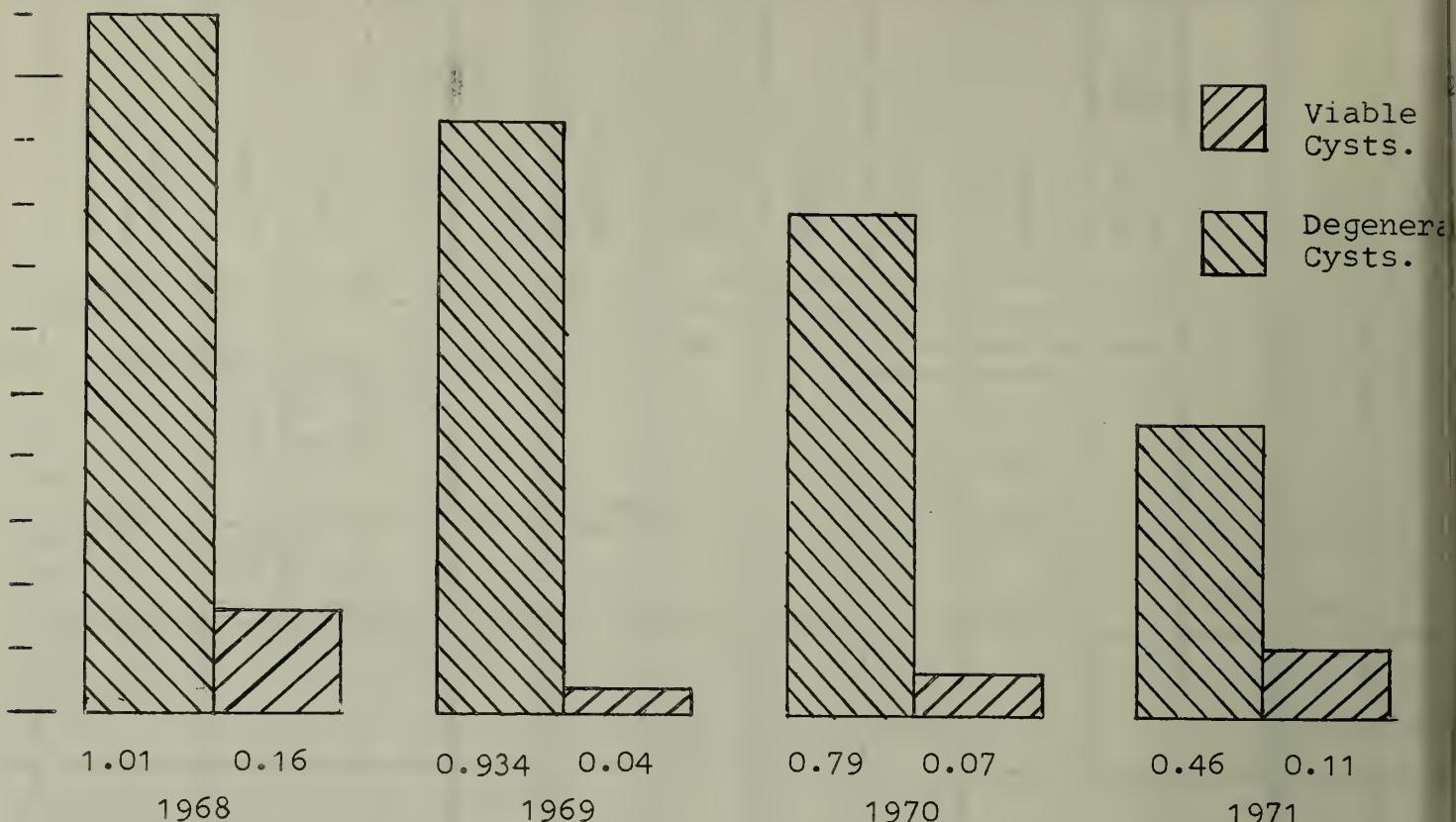
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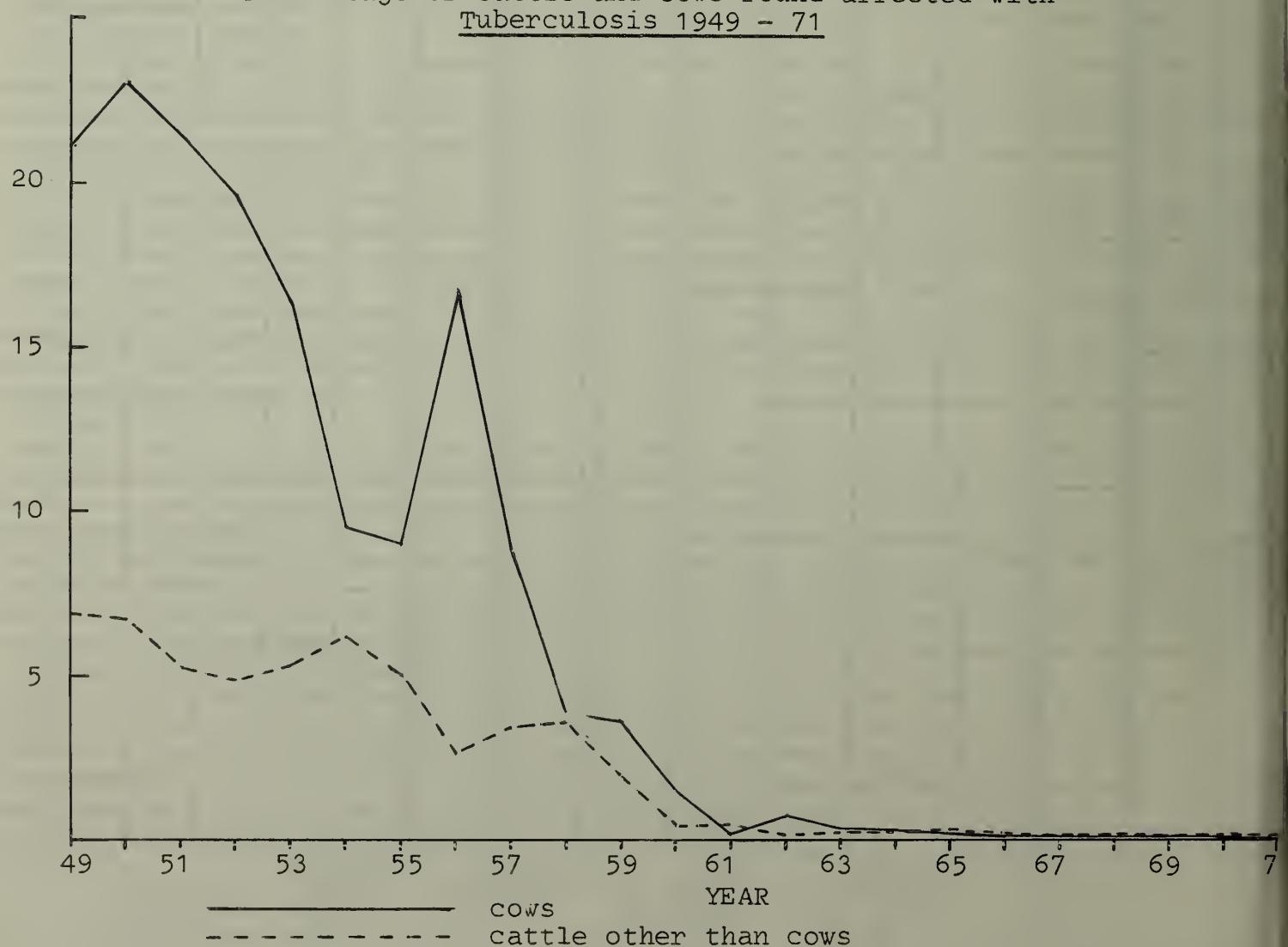
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in slaughterhouses was 88 tons 15 cwts 3 qrs 27 lb

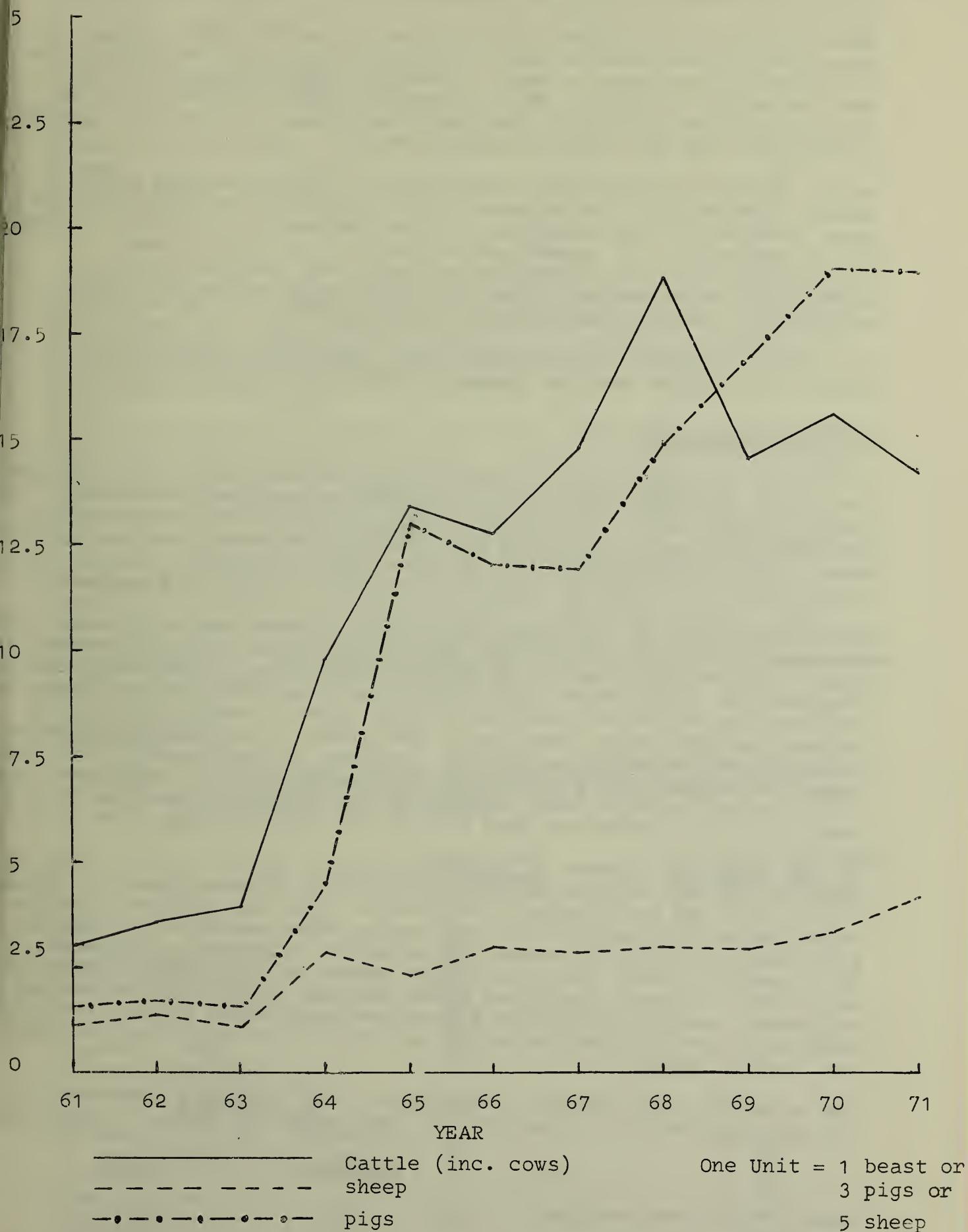
Percentage of Cattle and Cows found affected with  
Cysticercus bovis in 1968 to 1971  
(Degenerate and viable cysts shown separately)



Percentage of Cattle and Cows found affected with  
Tuberculosis 1949 - 71



Number of Animals in Cattle Units Slaughtered  
Annually within the Borough, 1961 - 1971.



completed by the middle of the year, was still taking place as the year closed. The new pig slaughterhall was, however, almost completed and was being used, and it is hoped that within the next few months the remainder of the work, particularly to the cattle and sheep slaughterhall, will be completed.

Meat inspection continues to be the section of the work of the Department which consumes more man hours than any other duty. The long awaited increases in meat inspection charges came about and were enforced in August. Whilst they will help towards financing this duty there will still inevitably be a loss. I hope that these charges will be kept under frequent review.

During routine post-mortem inspections at slaughterhouses 2 (6) beasts were found to be infected with tuberculosis as were 457 (700) pigs, but in one case only was it found necessary to totally condemn the animal. 81 (130) animals were found to be infested with *Cysticercus bovis* but after incubation of the cysts only 16 (11) were found to be viable. These 16 bodies were treated by refrigeration and then released for human consumption.

16 Official Sanitary Certificates were issued for the export of nearly 200 tons of meat to Denmark, Spain and Poland.

#### POULTRY INSPECTION

There are three poultry packing stations in daily use in the Borough, two of which concentrate mainly on preparing broiler chickens for the table although only the larger of the two carries out evisceration. The remaining packing station deals almost exclusively with eviscerate hens. The estimated kill for the year came to almost 5 million birds, and in addition to these some 74,614 rabbits were also slaughtered.

The repercussion of the severe fowl pest outbreak was still being felt throughout the year and for the second consecutive year the numbers of poultry killed was down on the previous year. The inspection of poultry remained one of the more important duties undertaken by your inspector and entailed visits at least once daily to each packing station to inspect abnormal birds detained by the firms' "Spotters". A growing awareness of the potential dangers involved in the consumption of un-inspected poultry and poultry processed in unhygienic conditions, has lead to more pressure being applied to Local Authorities from Government sources to undertake such a system of poultry inspection.

In the continued absence of specific hygiene legislation to apply to packing stations one can only apply the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970 and the 'Codes of Practice'. With the poultry industry expanding at its present rate one wonders when adequate legislation will be forthcoming to achieve satisfactory standards of hygiene. This country's entry into the Common Market will no doubt necessitate much more stringent conditions being applied to our food processing factories, poultry processing plants included, but I find it regrettable that specific legislation of our own is not being used to attain the desired result.

The following is a summary of the causes for voluntary surrender by the packing stations of the 50,949 birds unfit for human consumption.

	<u>BROILERS</u>	<u>HENS</u>
Dead in crate and Moribund	12173	3481
Abscesses	365	260
Emaciation	5427	12718
Tumours, including Marek's Disease	156	762
E. coli septicaemia	9404	-
Septic peritonitis	10	1415
Bruising	56	70
Perosis	80	2
Septic arthritis and synovitis	4	-

	<u>BROILERS</u>	<u>HENS</u>
Ascites and Leucosis	47	2200
Tuberculosis	-	13
Gangrene	4	101
Blackhead	10	-
Emphysema	68	-
Icterus	-	2
Septic pericarditis and septic pleurisy	-	1241
Pyrexia	14	4
Parasitic conditions	1	349
Oedema	10	66
Miscellaneous	133	303
	27,962	22,987

This total of condemned birds is only rather more than half the 90,000 for 1970. That year was an exceptional one in that most of the condemned birds were suffering, as an indirect result of fowl pest and it is rather interesting to note that the total this year was only about 100 more than that for 1969.

For some years past the opinion has been expressed in this report that instruction on thawing should be included, conspicuously displayed, on the packets containing frozen poultry. Most large producers include such instruction but in some instances it is contained in a panel mainly devoted to cooking recipes. Whilst this may at first be considered to be a good idea I have a suspicion that many housewives prepare their poultry in precisely the same way each time they buy it. This could mean that they give little or no heed to alternative recipes printed on the label on the packet and in ignoring the recipes the probability is that they will also miss the thawing instructions. I think it would be an improvement if the thawing instructions were isolated from other printing where this is not already done.

#### FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises in the area classified by type of business and the number of inspections of these premises during the year, are recorded in the table.

	<u>*Total No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Inspections made</u>
Bakers	4	21
Butchers	20	104
General Provisions	43	161
Fried fish shops	10	40
Restaurants, Cafes.	20	112
Hotels	8	41
Licenced clubs	25)	
Licences premises	56)	156
Food manufacturers and wholesalers	8	41
Canteens (schools, factories and public buildings)	58	97
Dairies and milk shops	35	53
Greengrocers	7	35
Confectioners	29	56
Wet fish	5	19
# Stalls	33	161
Miscellaneous	18	61

\*These figures should be regarded as approximate because in many cases different businesses are conducted from the same premises.

#This figure does not include mobile food traders.

### MARKET STALLS

Regular inspections were carried out of the market food stalls and mobile food traders in the town. In the main the standard of compliance with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966 was quite good but it remains necessary to make frequent visits in order to maintain the standard required.

### UNSOND FOOD

Weekly visits to some retail outlets and also to some wholesalers were conducted throughout the year for the purpose of examination of their food stocks and the condemnation of those found to be unfit for human consumption. Surrender certificates were issued for a great deal of canned and bottled foods, etc., which were unsatisfactory mainly through transit damage. Amounts dealt with increased from  $10\frac{1}{2}$  tons in 1970 to almost  $14\frac{1}{2}$  tons in 1971.

The amount of meat and offals condemned at the slaughterhouses fell from 103 tons in 1970 to almost 89 tons in 1971 and the poultry fell from 101 tons in 1970 to 63 tons in 1971. The drop in the weight of poultry condemned is undoubtedly accounted for by the fact that the number of chickens killed decreased by almost 1/5th, and that the birds were no longer suffering from effects of the fowl pest outbreak as explained earlier. The table of the food-stuffs found to be unfit for human consumption or unsaleable and diverted to other purposes or destroyed by the Department were in total as follows:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Sweets, Jam, Sugar	-	5	0	7
Flour, Cereals, Pastries	2	11	0	21
Soup	-	7	2	6
Ice cream and frozen foods	-	6	2	24
Cheese	-	8	0	25
Vegetables	1	19	3	1
Fruit	3	16	2	20
Tinned milk, fish, etc.	1	0	2	20
Tinned meat	-	16	1	20
Eggs (liquid)	1	5	3	5
Miscellaneous	1	4	2	10
Poultry (Shops)	-	3	2	19
	14	6	1	10
Meat and offals (at slaughterhouse)	88	15	3	27
Poultry (packing stations)	63	6	1	6
Rabbits (93)	-	3	3	21
	166	12	2	8

Four thousand six hundred and twenty three (4,321) voluntary surrender certificates for unsound food were issued.

### HOUSING

#### Overcrowding

No serious cases of overcrowding were encountered during the year.

#### Slum Clearance and Improvement Grants

As has been previously reported the main emphasis of housing work in the Borough is now towards improvement of the older housing stock and this modernisation work is found to dovetail to a large degree with the work of slum clearance and general repairs of the older houses.

41 houses were demolished (15) and 38 were closed. 14 houses were

made fit following vacation in pursuance of Closing Orders; in all cases improvement grants were given to aid this work.

One Clearance Order encompassing seven Clearance Areas was carried over from the previous year and, following representations from the owners of the houses and others that they were prepared to repair their properties, application was made to the Secretary of State for the Environment for the withdrawal of the application for confirmation of the Clearance Order. Nine houses in the Area were subsequently made the subject of Closing Orders and by the end of the year the first few houses in the terrace were being repaired and modernised. Where a terrace of so many houses is involved it is only to be expected that results achieved in this way will be manifested slowly. It is a long term policy but one which I am sure will have satisfying results to all concerned.

The Clearance Order made in respect of Reeds Buildings, Northgate Street, was confirmed towards the end of the year but six houses were excluded from the order albeit two of these were acknowledged to be unfit. There is no doubt in my mind that the demolition of the unfit houses will never be undertaken and that proposals, satisfactory to the Council, to repair and modernise the houses will be received. The Secretary of State for the Environment will then be requested to confirm the revocation of the Clearance Order.

During the year it became apparent that a state of inertia had developed regarding the ill-fated houses in Jacqueline Close. Most of these houses were evacuated in 1968/1969 and now only three families remain in residence. Difficulties have been experienced with rodent infestations on the site probably largely attributable to the many broken sewers and drains. It was considered that 27 of the houses were unfit for human habitation by virtue of the almost complete lack of sound drainage and sewerage. The defects were considered to be beyond remedy at reasonable expense. In consequence a Clearance Area comprising 28 houses was declared in May, 1971. To declare such modern houses unfit for human habitation is, in my experience, unprecedented but in the absence of any satisfactory alternative, no other course of action could be recommended to the Council.

A table of statistics relating to improvement grant work undertaken by the Department is shown below:-

#### Demolition and Repair

Number of houses demolished	-	41	(15)
Number of houses closed	-	38	)
Number of houses vacated			(42)
following closure	-	20	)

#### Improvements

Standard Grants	-	15	(20)
Higher Standard Grants	-	2	( - )
Improvement Grants	-	40	(32)
Maximum Standard Grants			
Approved	-	£2,255	(£2,910)
Maximum Higher Standard Grants approved	-	£666.50	(£-)
Discretionary Grants -			
approved expenditure	-	£47585.53	(£34350.49)
Discretionary Grants	-	£22221.82	(£15793.77½)

#### Qualification Certificates

Number of certificates in houses already improved	-	3	
Number of certificates following improvement	-	4	
Number of provisional certificates outstanding	-	2	
Number refused	-	1	

A row of cottages in Mill Road, known as Pleasant Row, all houses the subject of demolition orders, were purchased by a firm specialising in property modernisation. Plans and specifications satisfactory to the Council were submitted by the company and work was commenced to make the properties fit. Improvement Grants were made to assist in this work.

Similar, but as yet informal, arrangements were made with respect to properties in a confirmed Clearance Area in Ipswich Street and it is hoped that the proposals will go forward when the last tenants are re-housed. The area of the town comprising St. John's Place and Peckham Street was intended for survey with a view to Slum Clearance action within the next two or three years. When approached, however, the enthusiasm of some of the owners to avert this action was such that it was decided to give the area a life of fifteen years and to encourage repair and improvement to the properties. Where isolated houses continue to decay the policy of individual Closing Orders will be followed, but this will not necessarily sentence the area to having several ramshackle houses scattered amongst the modernised ones. There is a great demand for unfit houses of any type and once vacated the property quickly changes hands. Following repair and modernisation the Closing Order is determined. Normally the impediment, which causes the lack of adequate maintenance of the property leading ultimately to unfitness, is the controlled tenancy which frequently produces an income to the owner of only a few shillings a week. Once the controlled tenants have been rehoused by the Council, however, the repair and improvement of the house becomes a viable economic proposition.

#### REPAIRS

Following routine inspections and complaints 129 (99) houses were found to be defective and were repaired as a result of informal action. The following table shows details of the works which have been completed, some of the items in conjunction with grants.

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Roofs repaired	82	34
Guttering and rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed	71	34
External walls repaired or re- pointed	129	77
Doors repaired or renewed	64	33
Chimneys, flues and fireplaces repaired	38	12
Floors repaired and renewed	74	38
Windows repaired or enlarged	157	78
Dampness remedied	87	61
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	208	105
Stairs and staircases repaired	24	5
Food stores provided	5	4
Internal water supplies repaired	8	-
Sinks provided or renewed	3	2
Water closets repaired	8	3
Drainage - repairs and improvements	27	34
External decoration	5	3
Yard pavements repaired	2	-
Latrines remedied	4	-
Woodworm infestations treated	6	4
Damp proof courses provided	93	-
Means of space heating provided	36	12
Miscellaneous	66	14
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> 1197	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> 553

### Houses in Multiple Occupation

Officially, there are only about 17 of these houses known to the Department. There are undoubtedly a few more which would come to light in the event of a detailed house-to-house inspection in certain areas of the town. Whilst this type of survey can produce some very worthwhile results one has to balance the value of this against work which is necessarily left while such a survey is being conducted. As there is little or no problem from houses in multiple occupation in Bury St. Edmunds at this time, it is considered better to inspect this type of property as and when the Inspectors become better aware of their existence.

### Means of Escape from Fire

Some 126 visits were made during the year to hotels and buildings let in flats, etc., to inspect the arrangements for means of escape in case of fire. Where necessary the Fire Prevention Officer was asked to accompany the inspector to advise him on the technical details. Several premises were found to be unsatisfactory and remedial works were completed or were in the course of being so by the end of the year.

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

During the year 21 premises were brought on to the register and 36 registrations were cancelled for various reasons. At the end of the year there remained 430 premises on the register employing a total number of 3535 persons. As perhaps can be expected the number of female employees exceeded the males, the figure being 1952 females, 1583 males.

During the year 740 visits were made to premises and of these 226 were general inspections. On the whole few difficulties have been experienced in enforcing the Act although it was found in some instances that work required to be carried out was completed only after much pressure and persuasion. The fact that the Local Authority were not once recommended to take legal proceedings during the year was due entirely to the tolerance of the Officers concerned. The following table itemises details of contraventions remedied during the course of the year.

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Cleanliness	40	20
Temperature	3	4
Provision of thermometers	32	11
Ventilation	29	14
Lighting	21	16
Washing facilities	12	17
Soap and towels	15	3

### Sanitary Conveniences

(a) Provision of		
(b) Defects general	21	31
(c) Marked for sexes	2	1
(d) Incinerators	-	-
(e) Decoration	9	12
(f) Cleanliness	34	17

Clothing Accommodation

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
(a) Hanging	2	5
(b) Drying	3	8
Sitting facilities	4	-
Eating facilities	1	-
Floors, passages and stairs	84	96
Obstructions	1	1
First Aid	21	12
Abstract of Act	20	16
Ceilings and walls repaired	24	17
Regulations displayed	-	-
Overcrowding	1	-
Drinking water and vessels	-	-
Guarding of machinery	2	2
General Defects	21	19
Washing of cups in wash-hand basins	1	1
General decoration	28	8
Lifts and hoists	-	-
Lifting of heavy weights	-	-

13 accidents were reported but none of a serious nature. All accidents were investigated and it was found that they were caused by human element and not negligence on the part of the employers. Advice was given and no further action was necessary.

Some difficulty has been encountered in administering the Lifts and Hoist Regulations, 1968, in certain hotels and public houses within the Borough where a platform type of brewers hoist was used to convey crates from one floor to another in the premises. Following discussions, and an inspection of the premises in question with the Factory Inspector, further advice was sought from the Advisory Section of the Ministry of Labour in London. At the end of the year discussions were still going on as to whether the exemption from the requirements of the Regulations requested by the brewers should be granted, and no further advice had been received from London. However, the Advisory Section have indicated that, should it be necessary, they will give any help they can in the safe guarding of these hoists.

Factories Act, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	4	2	
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	170	184	38	
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	101	-	-	
TOTAL	273	188	40	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector Referred	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	54	54			
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)	3	5			
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	35	35		2	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offence relating to outwork)			1		
TOTAL	93	95	1	2	

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 & 111)

	Section 110			Section 111		
Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No of cases in default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No of instances of work in un- wholesome premises	Noti ces ser ved	Pros ecut ions
Wearing apparel making, etc.	25					
TOTAL	25					

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

At each market throughout the year a member of the Department was present to issue licences for the movement of swine under the Movement of Swine Order, 1959. During the year 3450 (3530) movement licences were issued.

On the 8th March, 1971 restrictions on the area under the Fowl Pest (Infected Areas) Special Order No.3 1970 were lifted and by that date 89 movement licences for poultry had been issued. During the time in 1970 and the early part of 1971 when poultry movements were restricted, 442 licences were issued by the Department.

From the same date that the restrictions were lifted the poultry market was licenced under the Live Poultry (Restrictions) Order, 1971 to deal only in store poultry. This licence was subsequently withdrawn and there was issued a licence to deal in birds intended for immediate slaughter and in carcasses. This followed a very strong plea by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that only this type of licence should be issued by Diseases of Animals Authorities.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year the number of premises found to be infested with rats again fell below the figure for the preceding year and no real trouble was experienced. The number of premises found to be infested with mice remained fairly constant. Warfarin is not now being used by the Department for the treatment of mice and satisfactory results are being obtained with alternative poisons.

The numbers of infestations of rodents over the past 6 years can be seen from the following table:-

Year	Number of infested properties treated	
	RATS	MICE
1966	389	96
1967	411	72
1968	420	39
1969	400	111
1970	383	221
1971	325	218

The exceptionally fine summer produced another heavy incidence of wasps nests and 247 (259) were destroyed. 281 (174) other premises were treated for infestations of various insects. The majority 261 (136) of these premises were infested with earwigs. In the main these infestations of earwigs are encountered on the new estates built within the last 3 or 4 years. The insects involved in other infestations were mainly fleas and bed bugs.

A rather worrying series of complaints were received regarding severe infestations of flies in properties in one concentrated area of the town. These complaints continued sporadically until well into the Autumn of the year and despite almost daily investigations the source(s) of the infestations had not been discovered by the time that Winter brought a natural close to the insect activities. I have no doubt that more will be heard about this episode by early Summer.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT

During the year some 32 complaints were received of alleged noise nuisances. After a thorough investigation only four of these complaints were in fact confirmed as statutory nuisances. Three of the four involved industrial premises and the other commercial premises. In all four cases the nuisances were abated by informal action involving discussions with the firms concerned when suitable advice was given.

One complaint only was received regarding the chimes of an ice-cream van being used outside the permitted hours. Three complaints concerned traffic noise and another three stemmed from the operations of statutory undertakers. Vehicular noise and the unmuffled road breakers used by the statutory undertakers and their contractors are outside the scope of the Noise Abatement Act, 1961. Surely it is time that this piece of legislation was amended.

In all the remaining cases where a complaint was received, and nuisances were not confirmed, advice was given to the complainants regarding any action which was available to them.

#### PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

Each year the Department is responsible for licensing all existing and new petroleum spirit stores and tanks together with those for

cellulose and carbide of calcium. Installations of new petroleum tanks and the repair or alteration of existing works are supervised to ensure compliance with the Council's Licensing Conditions.

There are 79 petroleum installations in the town together with 11 cellulose and petroleum mixtures stores and 2 carbide of calcium stores. The total of 226,585 gallons of petroleum spirit, 2620 gallons of cellulose and petroleum mixtures and 10 cwts. of carbide of calcium is licensed to be stored in the Borough.

There are three self-service filling stations in the town and discussions regarding the installation of several others were taking place at the close of the year.

Periodically the petroleum tanks are tested under supervision by the Department's Inspectors, 56 visits being made to petroleum installations for this purpose in 1971. Two tanks were found to fail the tests imposed.

A potentially serious accident occurred at a filling station in the town when a tank which was being filled overflowed. The petroleum seeped into an excavation nearby which was being formed to receive a new tank. The proprietor of the garage failed to immediately notify the Licensing Authority in accordance with the Licensing Conditions and some hours had elapsed before expert advice was sought. The concentration of inflammable vapour which had accumulated in the excavation could have been easily ignited by almost any accident, let alone the severance of a mains electric cable which had occurred in the excavation. The garage proprietor was severely cautioned and informed that future deviation from the Licensing Conditions would probably result in prosecution.

#### EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875

Premises which store explosives are subject to an annual registration and this work is undertaken by the Department. 30 premises were registered during 1971, four of which stored mixed explosives, two stored cartridges, one explosive rope, and the remainder fireworks.

As usual inspections were carried out of the shops which sought licenses to store fireworks. These inspections, 55, took place shortly before Guy Fawkes night. Safety standards in shops have improved considerably in the last few years probably due to the amount of publicity regarding the dangers of fireworks.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950

In accordance with the usual practice an extension of shopping hours was permitted during the week immediately preceding Christmas.

An extension of the normally permitted hours was also granted in respect of an Exhibition which is to be held in the Athenaeum during the summer of 1972.

Several contentious points were dealt with following appeals for advice from shops or other employers. The main points concerned the half-day closing in weeks prior to and after Bank Holiday weekends. Advice was given on several occasions regarding the permitted working hours for young persons under 18 years of age.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 - 1968

In general, atmospheric pollution is one of the smallest worries of the Department. Smoke observations are carried out periodically on factory chimneys but perhaps one of the biggest problems concerns the burning of waste on land adjacent to industrial premises. Whilst it is acknowledged that it is not always easy to obtain the removal of industrial waste, the Inspectors insist always on the fire being extinguished and alternative methods of disposal being used. Ten applications for approval of a furnace installation were received. All were approved. Nine applications were also made for the determination of chimney heights and again all were approved following negotiations in two of the cases in which it was felt that alterations were required.

#### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENTS ACT, 1960

During the year five sites were legally occupied by caravans. One site involved 34 caravans and was used as a permanent residential site. Conditions here remain at a satisfactorily high level. As usual two sites were used for Winter quarters for the members of the Showmen's Guild, the main one being behind The Broadway, Eastgate Street. When at the end of March next year the caravans vacate the land it is doubtful whether it will again be used for this purpose as the time is rapidly approaching when it will be used for the purpose for which it was acquired, namely a car park extension. The finding of an alternative site for the caravans may prove to be extremely difficult.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The Department is responsible for the administration of a dustbin hiring scheme under the Public Health Act, 1936. These dustbins are available for hiring to domestic premises only. During the year the number of dustbins on hire increased from 1416 to 1435. The hiring charge increased as from 1st April, 1971 to 36p. per annum.

During the year 1436 (1210) complaints and requests for the services of the Department were made. This figure is increasing yearly.





